

PICKET SHOTS

From Alert Comrades Along the Whole Line.

Cedar Mountain Battlefield a Year After.

Joe B. Sweet, bugler, Co. C, 8th N. Y. Cav., writes from Rochester, N. Y.: "About a year after Pope's defeat at Cedar Mountain, our regiment was sent on picket on the very ground where the fighting had been most terrific. Our line was established late in the evening, with the reserve in the woods. We stretched our shelter tents and spread our blankets as well as we could in the darkness that was unrelieved even by fires, which for some reason were forbidden, and then lay down to sleep. I found some difficulty in getting to sleep on account of two stones, but finally wedged myself between them, and didn't know anything until daylight. When I got up I pulled up my blanket, and discovered that the supposed stones were human skulls. These were insignificant sights compared with their surroundings. Everywhere about among the trees were fragments of human skeletons. I thought at first these bones had lain scattered since the battle, but they had not. They had been dragged there by dogs, which had dug them out of the heaps of corpses that had been piled upon the level ground and too lightly covered with earth for common decency. The very evening we went into that reserve camp I got a glimpse of a large, wolfish-looking dog slinking thru the trees near my shelter tent, and wondered at its boldness. By daylight a horrible sight met our eyes on every hand. I have never been able to forget the fragments of our squadrons had its reserve stationed in that particular location, but shall always be most content to regard it as a blunder."

The First Volunteer.

Josias Redgate King, St. Paul, Minn., claims to have been the first man to enlist in the war for the Union. He was born in Washington, D. C., Feb. 21, 1832, and after an adventurous career in Florida and on the Pacific Coast, he went to Minnesota as an employee of the Surveyor-General. Gov. Ramsey's telegram to the Lieutenant-Governor to begin recruiting, was received in St. Paul at 10 A. M. A meeting was immediately called and King put his name leading all the others in what became Co. A, 1st Minn. He was drilled in the city, and then became its first sergeant, and then its second lieutenant. In 1862 he went on the staff of Gen. Sully, and went West to fight the Indians. He was promoted to Lieutenant-Colonel of the 2d U. S. Vols., with which he did good service against the Indians. At the conclusion of the war he was given a Lieutenant in the Regular Army, but resigned two years later, and returned to St. Paul, where he became Inspector-General of the State Guard, and did very much to develop the militia. He became the fine organization it has become.

Inadequate Pensions.

Comrade Dennis Kelley writes from Orville, Cal.: "I was in the 10th U. S. on Sept. 20, 1861, and served until Feb. 28, 1864; was honorably discharged and reenlisted on the same date at Gettysburg, Pa., in the same company and regiment on the field. I was taken prisoner at the Seven Days fight in the Wilderness and sent to Andersonville, in which place I was 11 months. When I was released I weighed 80 pounds and could not speak above a whisper. I was sent to Camden Street Hospital, Baltimore. "I served until Feb. 28, 1867, and was discharged at Houston, Texas. I am 67 years old and am drawing a pension of \$12 per month on my disability. I am not able to do any work. I get sick sometimes and have to pay for medicine. I find it hard work to live on the pension. I would like this pension to be increased, and present it to Congress and ask them as gentlemen if I am treated right. I was with G. B. McClellan all over the Peninsula, and was in the battles of Antietam, Chancellorsville, Spotsylvania, Gettysburg and all the other great battles of that command."

Where Were the Rebels?

Comrade L. Pepper, Co. E, 37th Ky. Celery, Ky., writes: "I was on guard at Lexington, Ky., in July of August, '64, when two rebel spies were hung. The 11th Mich. Cav., 12th Ohio Cav. and the 13th Ky. were sent to look for them. I would be glad to be reminded of the spies were. One of them, with his neck under the noose, boasted that he had killed 19 Yankees, expressed regret that he had failed to get a shot at Gen. Burbridge and said, 'If every rebel had done as well as I have you wouldn't see these free niggers running around here.'"

His Discharge Was Stolen.

Comrade William N. Clark, Cos. B and H, 13th Ill. (the figures are not plain, and may be 15th Ill.), now at National Military Home, Danville, Ill., writes: "In 1865, at Texarkana, Tex., my satchel was stolen. It contained sundry valuable papers and among those I most regretted to lose was my discharge. It occurs to me that as the thief could not make safe personal use of the discharge he may have cast it aside, in which case some one may have found it and kept it as a relic. I am hopeful that inquiry thru The National Tribune may lead to its recovery."

One of the Widows.

Mrs. Jennie V. Gaylord, widow of Rufus S. Gaylord, Savannah, Ga., is one of the victims of the discrimination against widows. She married her husband after 1859, who was then trying to keep house for himself and three boys on a pension of \$6 a month. He could not do other work than superintend a small garden. She joined forces with him and worked faithfully to help him get along and raise his children. One boy died, and in less than two years the father died, leaving her with two boys and a daughter of her own. Only the oldest boy was able to work, and they did the best they could. The father died of diseases contracted in the army, but she has been allowed no pension.

10th Mass.

Comrade H. M. Converse, Co. I, 10th Mass., Warren, Mass., writes: "The Annual Reunion of the Regimental Association was held at Springfield, Mass., June 21, 1908, with 50 members present. In your issue of June 18, 1908, Comrade T. F. Murphy says that the 10th Mass. was organized at Springfield and Boston June 21, 1861, and mustered out July 6, 1864, which is all correct, except that no part of the regiment was organized at Boston."

Whose Babies?

Jacob Raab, Co. G, 14th Brooklyn (84th N. Y. S. M.), 22 Perine Ave., Jersey City, N. J., sends to The National Tribune a picture of four children apparently from one to eight or nine years of age; two girls and possibly two more girls. The oldest and the youngest are doubtful—may be of either sex. The largest girl sits in a chair with the youngest child in her arms; the second girl—three or four years of age, perhaps—sits on some higher seat by their side, and by her side the largest—girl or boy? They were found at Gettysburg.

A Shilling Piece.

Mrs. Durance R. McPeck, Union City, Ind., thinks that we were mistaken in saying that the United States never minted a silver 12-1/2 cent piece. In the Winter of 1858-9 her parents lived in Brookline, Vt., where she went to school. Her teacher offered a premium for the one who should get to the

head of the class, and she was but a child she succeeded in beating the other pupils, and received the prize, which was a new 12-1/2 cent silver shilling, with a string thru it. She wore it during the remainder of the session. Her mother, who raised 14 children to men and women, knit a pair of double mittens, and sent it with her shilling to Townsend, Vt., to buy a dress. She remembers seeing many 12-1/2 cent and 6-1/4 cent pieces in her young days.

A Hospital at City Point.

W. O. Dolphin, 6653 Cottage Grove Ave., Chicago, Ill., wants the name of the hospital at City Point, Va., in 1864-65. He was in the hospital only a short time, but thinks if he can find a record it will help him in getting a pension.

The 28th Ill.

W. B. Crawford, Girard, Kan., says that Comrade G. T. Hanback is mistaken in regard to the 28th Ill. It did not belong to Lauman's Division of the Sixteenth Corps, but was in Benton's Division of the Thirteenth Corps.

Volunteers for the Fortuna Hope.

N. B. Easton, Sergeant, 20th Ind., Stillwater, Okla., says that there is one class of soldiers who have never received anything like the recognition that they deserve. These are the volunteers for a forlorn hope, and all of them should receive medals of honor and other recognition.

The Cheating.

Benajah H. Post, Stepien Depot, Conn., wants to know about the Cheating, which carried the 23d N. Y. to New Orleans; where was it built, what was her length, how many masts, and what became of her.

About Aged Mother.

On June 22, 1908, H. H. Hackett, Union Springs, N. Y., writes: "My mother is 93 years and 14 days old. She sent three sons to the army with a 'God bless.' We have five discharges between us, and are all living."

Gov. Hughes.

Henry Gray, Saratoga Springs, N. Y., thinks that Gov. Hughes is no friend of the soldiers. George H. Whitney, Assemblyman, had a bill passed to exempt real estate bought with pension money, but Gov. Hughes vetoed it.

Against the Sherwood Bill.

S. G. Derrickson, 309 Tompkins Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., is bitterly opposed to the Sherwood bill for its exclusion of the short-term men, particularly the three-month men. There is no justice in such discrimination.

Scattering.

C. F. Laffin, Asotin, Wash., writes that he is reminded of an interview with Gen. Pope at Centerville, just after Second Bull Run. Comrade Laffin and a squad of foragers penetrated a wood, and were rounded up by a cavalry detachment for passing beyond the lines. They were sent to headquarters by calling Gen. Pope, bareheaded, came out of his tent, and accorded them an interview they had not sought. He said, "Don't you know that the enemy occupied this wood? If you are caught at this sort of thing again I'll have you tied up and whipped."

Comrade Laffin adds, "I think he would have been right if he had trounced me for this. This is a fine article. Comrade C. K. Leach, Cambridge, Vt., has a Confederate canteen on which is the name of C. Palfrey, Co. A, 1st Mass. He will be pleased to hear from Palfrey or his relatives."

Comrade Jerome B. Robinson enlisted May 19, 1863, in 1st Nev. Battery, and served till Nov. 1, 1865. He is now a resident of Amsterdam, N. Y., and a member of E. S. Young Post, 33, G. A. R. He was 83 years old on April 23, 1908, and that evening the comrades of the Post attended him by calling in a body, accompanied by families and friends, and presented him a cane appropriately inscribed.

Comrade D. Lloyd, Co. K, 55th Ohio, Pymont, O., writes: "I have seen and heard much kicking since the Sherwood bill was first published. I want the kickers to answer pointedly this question: Would you personally, from your own resources in employing men, pay as much to the man who worked but three hours as to the man who worked 36 hours? In that proportion, would you pay a pension, from your own resources, to a man who served in the army for three years, as to a man who served for 36 months?"

Comrade John H. Boyden, Reading, Mich., writes: "If Congress ever did anything that was more unjust, more absurd in reason, more ridiculous as legislation than the provision that limits the date of marriage for soldiers' widows for pension benefits, I have not encountered any record thereof. I served my country faithfully when at my physical best. I am now 77 years old, and certainly less able than I would have been had I not heeded the cry of my country for rescue. I married in 1864. I needed a wife, companionship, care and assistance. Is it less than absurd for my country to brutally tell me that I must suffer want of a wife's care or die assured that my wife is disposed and rejected as an unworthy creature by my country, because I did not marry her four years sooner? It humiliates me to feel that the country he loved and fought for can become so contemptible in its administration of pensions."

Samuel G. Barnhouse, Troy, W. Va., enlisted in March, 1862, and re-enlisted in February, 1864; was discharged in August, 1865; served in Co. G, 10th W. Va.; would like to hear from old comrades, and asks especially, "What has become of Wm. Tennant and of John McAdams?"

First Enlisters' Reunion.

Schenck's Brigade, first three months' service, 1st and 2d Ohio Regimental Association, Comrade: The 22d Annual Meeting of said association in commemoration of the 47th Anniversary of the First Battle of Bull Run will be held at Mansfield, Ohio, on Tuesday, July 21, 1908. Comrades will assemble at the Southern Hotel at 10 A. M.; from there they will proceed to the G. A. R. Hall at Soldiers and Sailors Memorial Building on Park Avenue west, for business meeting and dinner.

Mansfield comrades will do the rest. Give Secretary notice if you can attend. By order of Capt. J. S. Hedges, President, 137 Park Avenue West, Mansfield, Ohio; Isaac Kindle, Secretary, 2428 East High Street, Springfield, Ohio.

Reunion of 54th Pa.

The 17th Annual Reunion of 54th Pa. will be held Aug. 20, 1908, at McKeesport, Pa. Please attend, and, in any case, write to the Secretary, D. R. Bryan, 312 Market St., Johnstown, Pa., or send dues (50 cts.) to the Treasurer, John L. Decker, 220 Haynes St., Johnstown.

Reunion of 184th Pa.

The 26th Annual Reunion of the 184th Pa. will be held at New Castle, Pa., Aug. 13, 1908. Assemble at 10-10 A. M. business meeting at 1 P. M. In band stand in park. Carry picnic baskets, or get meals at the park. There will be a report from the Committee on Monument at Fredericksburg and date for dedication will be announced.

Reunion of 140th N. Y.

The newspaper clipping sent to us with report of the Reunion of the 140th N. Y., at Glen Haven is without date and states that the meeting occurred "yesterday," 56 members being present. Officers elected are: Abraham Teal, President; C. Colby, Vice President; A. S. Bostwick, Secretary; Harry Smith, Treasurer.

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Editor National Tribune: The 22d Encampment of the Department of Idaho has just closed a very successful and harmonious session of three days' duration June 24-26, 1908. The officers are: Department Commander, W. E. Jameson of No. 5, Moscow; S. V. C., Stewart Young, No. 29, Rathdrum; J. V. C., Willard White, of No. 14, Boise; Medical Director, Dr. Adolph Blum, of No. 4, Boise; Chaplain, Rev. J. C. Stewart, of No. 29, Fremont; A. A. G. A., A. Q. M., M. H. Barber, of No. 4, Boise. Under management of Lieut. Col. M. W. Wood, U. S. A., retired, our efficient Post Quartermaster, a camp of 60 tents was pitched in a vacant lot; cots were provided, quite a number taking the opportunity of an old-fashioned military camp. A 72-foot tent did service for a cooking and dining room, and with the ladies of the Woman's Relief Corps as superintendents, no one was allowed to go hungry. Our Uncle Sam, the genial Col. Gresham, loaned us an old 15-pounder and some tents. Gov. Gooding, of Idaho, kindly furnished us some more, and with Old Boating from a fine staff furnished by the Admon. Bros., sons of an old veteran, nothing was wanting to make an ideal camp. It is with sorrow that this morning we were informed of the death of one of our comrades—Gen. David Vickers, in his 67th year. Gen. Vickers went out in May, 1861, as Lieutenant in the 3d N. J., rising to the position of Colonel and Brevet Brigadier-General. At the time of his death he held the position of Adjutant-General of the State of Idaho, having held the office five years. I know of only his widow surviving him. Of course, he will be buried with all military honors. Time not yet set for funeral.—E. H. Jeanquart, Aide-Camp, Boise, Idaho.

Department of Tennessee.

The Department of Tennessee, G. A. R., at the 25th Encampment, Maryville, Tenn., May 13, 1908, elected the following officers: Commander, S. W. Tindell, Harriman; S. V. C., D. M. Stewart, Chattanooga; J. V. C., Ignas Fanz, Knoxville; Chaplain, Dr. J. F. Spence, Knoxville; Medical Director, E. H. Price, M. D., Chattanooga. Staff appointments: Assistant Adjutant-General and Assistant Quartermaster-General, Sylvanus Hersey, Knoxville; Inspector, A. J. Gahagan, Chattanooga; Judge-Advocate, T. H. Reeves, Morristown; Chief Muster Officer, W. H. Nelson, Mountain Branch Soldiers' Home; Senior Aide-Camp, Herbert B. Case, Chattanooga; Patriotic Instructor, W. F. McCarron, Athens.

Comrade Bull Reappointed.